

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment and remarks, claim 1 will have been amended and claims 5 and 7 will have been withdrawn. Claims 2 and 6 will have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7 are currently pending. Applicant submits that no new matter is added by the present amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Obviousness Rejection under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art as set forth at page 2, lines 1-16 of the specification in view of BIRD (US Pat No 5,863,365).

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the obviousness rejection in view of the following remarks.

For an obviousness rejection under 103(a) to be proper, the references, alone or in proper combination must teach, reasonably suggest or render obvious all of the claimed limitations. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that the admitted prior art, either alone or in proper combination with BIRD, fails to teach, reasonably suggest or render obvious all of the claimed limitations of the present application.

In particular, claim 1 is generally directed to a method of manufacturing a low pressure injection type RIM mold, comprising, *inter alia*, machining a material so that a skin material can be produced, preparing an outer frame around the machined skin material and pouring epoxy

directly onto the machined skin material to prepare a lower mold, releasing and inverting the lower mold after the epoxy has been completely cured, performing NC machining on the released portion of the lower mold, preparing a thickness-defining portion on the inverted lower mold using one of wax and resin by machining for the thickness of the product, bosses and a rim, preparing an upper mold by pouring epoxy onto the machined surface wherein a thickness-forming portion is formed, removing the thickness-forming portion to thereby form a RIM mold, wherein the skin material prepared in the machining is made of polystyrene.

The admitted prior art is generally directed to a conventional method of manufacturing a RIM mold and BIRD discloses a method of manufacturing composite articles and more particularly, manufacturing large integral pieces of an aircraft fuselage from composite material (*see* BIRD col. 3, lines 37-39).

It is respectfully submitted that the admitted prior art, alone or in proper combination with BIRD, fails to teach, reasonably suggest or render obvious at least the pouring of epoxy directly onto the machined skin material to prepare a lower mold and releasing and inverting the lower mold after the epoxy has been completely cured, and performing NC machining on the released portion of the lower mold, in the claimed combination.

More specifically, in distinguishing the present application from the prior art combination, the present invention provides pouring epoxy directly onto the machined skin material to prepare a lower mold. In contrast, the admitted prior art requires that a “gel coat” be poured/stacked onto the machined skin followed by an epoxy pour onto the gel coat. BIRD at least fails to cure this deficiency as the reference fails to disclose a method either requiring pouring epoxy directly onto the machined skin material to prepare a lower mold or to provide

reasons for eliminating a gel coat in a method of manufacturing a low pressure injection type RIM mold. In this regard, it is noted that pouring epoxy directly onto the machined skin material eliminates the required “gel coat” of the admitted prior art and has at least the advantages of reducing the number of method steps (i.e. reducing manufacturing time) and costs associated with the prior art method of manufacturing (*see* specification page 2, lines 19-30 and page 3, lines 1-2).

Additionally, the present claimed invention further requires releasing and inverting the lower mold after the epoxy has been completely cured, and performing NC machining on the released portion of the lower mold. Neither the alleged admitted prior art nor BIRD requires performing NC machining on the released portion after inversion of the lower mold.

For at least each and all of these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the alleged admitted prior art, alone or in proper combination with BIRD, fails to teach, reasonably suggest or render obvious the method of at least independent claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness rejection and allowance of all pending claims in the present application is respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 3 and 4, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance at least because of their dependency from claim 1 and the reasons as set forth above, as well as based upon their own recitations.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in any proper combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

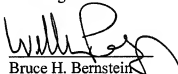
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication to that effect. Applicant has argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant notes that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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